

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Greenville, South Carolina

Profile of Drug Indicators

August 2002



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Greenville, South Carolina

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, funding, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Greenville city population: 56,002 (2000 Census)
- Race/Ethnicity: 62.81% white, 34.32% black or African American, 0.14% American Indian and Alaska Native, 1.28% Asian, 0.06% Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, 1.38% other race, 1.12% two or more races, 3.48% Hispanic or Latino (of any race).
- The city of Greenville is located in Greenville County.

Politics²

- Mayor: Knox H. White
- Council Members: Debra M. Sofield (District 1); Lillian Brock Flemming (District 2); Chandra E. Dillard (District 3); Garry William Coulter (District 4); Michele R. Shain (At-Large); C. Diane Smock (At-Large).
- Greenville Chief of Police: W.L. Johnson

Programs/Initiatives

- The Greenville County Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse is a non-profit public agency created in 1973 by state legislation for county alcohol and drug abuse services. Commission services include: *Fatal Vision*, which is a DUI simulation program that demonstrates the visual and perceptual impairments of intoxication; *Teens under Fire*, which is a program that reenacts alcohol related automobile crashes; and HIV/AIDS education programs.³

Funding

- FY 2002 Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities, Greenville County:⁴
 - Communities in Schools of Greenville received \$29,514 to support the operation of the Families and Schools Together (FAST) program.
 - The Greenville Family Partnership received \$36,000 to educate youth and adults in methods of reducing the risk of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- There were 2,601 total drug abuse violations in Greenville County, during 2000.⁵

Drug Arrests in the Greenville-Spartanburg-Anderson Metropolitan Area, 2000

	Drug Abuse Violations	Drug Paraphernalia Violations
Anderson County	607	2
Cherokee County	516	7
Greenville County	2,601	463
Pickens County	545	1
Spartanburg County	1,517	112
Total	5,786	585

- During 2000 in Greenville County, there were 504 drug abuse violation arrests for crack.⁶

Type of Drug Violation Arrest, Greenville County, 2000

Crack	504
Cocaine	116
Hashish	1
Heroin	35
Marijuana	1,677
Morphine	3
Other Narcotics	34
LSD	6
Other Hallucinogens	63
Amphetamines	47
Other Stimulants	6
Other Depressants	6
Other Drugs	98
Unknown Types	5
Total	2,601

- During 2000 in Greenville, there were 230 robbery offenses known to law enforcement.⁷

Number of Offenses know to Law Enforcement, Greenville, 1999-2000

Offense	1999	2000
Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	3	7
Forcible Rape	32	53
Robbery	173	230
Aggravated assault	547	555
Burglary	720	808
Larceny-theft	3,459	3,563
Motor vehicle theft	332	303
Arson	12	10

- The Greenville area is one of three main cities in South Carolina with the largest number of gangs in the state. Most of these gangs are involved in drug distribution. Gangs from Florida as well as the cities of Los Angeles, Chicago, and New York have moved into Greenville County. According to the Greenville County Sheriff's Office, local turf wars between African America gangs culminate in drive by shootings and contribute to the violence in the area.⁸

Drugs⁹

- Methamphetamine production, distribution, and abuse are a significant threat to the western part of South Carolina, particularly the Greenville area. Methamphetamine production and abuse are expanding in the western part of South Carolina known as the Upstate. This area is predominately rural and is at the base of the Blue Ridge mountains where the Greenville-Spartanburg metropolitan area is located.
- Heroin distribution and abuse are limited to metropolitan areas such as Greenville. During 1999 and 2000, a higher purity heroin (90% pure) was distributed in Greenville, causing many overdoses among users usually accustomed to lower purity levels.
- Greenville is located in the Upstate, which is approximately halfway between Atlanta and Charlotte. This area has been the location of several raves, which attract local youth as well as youth from nearby cities.
- Powder cocaine prices range from \$90 for a gram, to \$1,000 for an ounce, to \$26,000 for a kilogram. Prices for crack cocaine range from \$25 for a rock to \$1,200 for an ounce.
- According to the Greenville County Sheriff's Office, cannabis is grown in rural areas in the western part of the state.

Juveniles

- There were 2,315 juvenile drug abuse violation arrests during 2000 in Greenville County.¹⁰

Juvenile Drug-Related Arrests, Greenville-Spartanburg-Anderson Metropolitan Area, 2000

	Drug Abuse Violations	Drug Paraphernalia Violations
Anderson County	566	2
Cherokee County	470	6
Greenville County	2,315	432
Pickens County	486	1
Spartanburg County	1,360	109
Total	5,197	550

Enforcement

- As of October 2000, there were 219 law enforcement personnel working in Greenville, 179 of which were officers.¹¹

Trafficking and Seizures¹²

- In August 2000, the South Carolina Highway Patrol Aggressive Criminal Enforcement Team seized more than 400 pounds of marijuana during two traffic stops in Greenville County.
- According to the Greenville Sheriff's Office, one Caucasian criminal group operated several methamphetamine labs from 1999 to 2000 in Greenville, Spartanburg, Laurens, and Anderson counties.
- Nigerian criminal groups operating in Greenville have transported Southeast and Southwest Asian heroin into South Carolina and often use a cover company to disguise their criminal activity.

- African American street gangs and local independent dealers travel to distribution centers in neighboring states and transport heroin back to Greenville where they then distribute the drug.
- The United States Customs Service reported increasing seizures of cannabis plants in Greenville, despite a decrease in outdoor grows. Outdoor cannabis is seized more frequently because the plant stands out from the surrounding dry, withered foliage.

Courts

- As of January 2002, there were two drug courts operating for over 2 years in Greenville.¹³
- Greenville County Family Court¹⁴
 - *Juvenile Diversion Services* is a program for first time offenders who are 16 years or younger at the time of arrest. Participants must complete community service work, attend school, submit to random drug screens, receive counseling and guidance and pay restitution. If all program requirements are satisfied, the charge(s) against the participant is dismissed.
 - *Juvenile Drug Court*, an intensive treatment-based program, holds offenders accountable for their actions through adjudication. Participants are required to attend substance abuse counseling, community support meetings, family counseling, school, vocational training and/or employment. If all program requirements are satisfied, the guilty plea will be withdrawn and the charge(s) against the participant will be dismissed. If the participant is terminated from the program, the suspended sentence given on the day of the guilty plea will be imposed.

Consequences of Use

- Local Greenville hospitals in western South Carolina reported weekly occurrences of GHB overdoses during 2000 and the Greenville county coroner confirmed two deaths due to GHB overdose. During this time period, a 21-year-old Greenville man drank a soda bottle cap full of “home brew” after which he collapsed into a seizure and nearly died. It was later discovered that the substance was really “Blue Nitro,” which is a common name for GBL, a precursor of GHB.¹⁵

Treatment

- As of July 2002, there were 922 drug treatment admissions in Greenville County.¹⁶

Drug Treatment Admissions, Greenville County, July 2002

All Drugs	Marijuana	Cocaine-Crack	Other Drugs
922	344	316	262

Sources

¹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>

² City of Greenville Web site: <http://www.greatergreenville.com>

³ Greenville County Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Web site: <http://www.greenvillegreenville.org/ADAC/index.htm>

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- ⁴ South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Services, The BIG Issue, March-August 2001:
http://www.daodas.state.sc.us/web/bigissue/bi03_01/3.html
- ⁵ South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, Drug Related Arrest Data, 1998-2000
- ⁶ South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, Type of Drug Violation Arrest, 2000
- ⁷ Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reports, *Crime in the United States, 2000*, October 2001:
<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/00cius.htm>
- ⁸ National Drug Intelligence Center, *South Carolina Drug Threat Assessment*, December 2001:
<http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs/717/717p.pdf>
- ⁹ National Drug Intelligence Center, *South Carolina Drug Threat Assessment*, December 2001:
<http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs/717/717p.pdf>
- ¹⁰ South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, Drug Related Arrest Data, 1998-2000
- ¹¹ Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reports, *Crime in the United States, 2000*, October 2001: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm>
- ¹² National Drug Intelligence Center, *South Carolina Drug Threat Assessment*, December 2001:
<http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs/717/717p.pdf>
- ¹³ OJP Drug Court Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project, *Summary of Drug Court Activity by State and County*, January 17, 2002:
<http://www.american.edu/academic.depts/spa/justice/publications/drgchart2k.pdf>
- ¹⁴ Greenville County Solicitor's Office, Greenville County Family Court:
<http://www.co.greenville.sc.us/solicitor/page5.asp>
- ¹⁵ National Drug Intelligence Center, *South Carolina Drug Threat Assessment*, December 2001:
<http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs/717/717p.pdf>
- ¹⁶ South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services, Drug Treatment Admissions, FY 2002

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